

Application No. 10/612,211

Reply to Office Action

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A positive-working lithographic printing plate precursor comprising (i) a grained and anodized aluminum support having a hydrophilic surface and (ii) a heat-sensitive oleophilic coating provided on the hydrophilic surface, wherein said coating is capable of dissolving in an aqueous alkaline developer at a higher dissolution rate in areas of said coating which are exposed to heat or infrared light than in unexposed areas, characterized in that the hydrophilic surface has a surface roughness, expressed as arithmetical mean center-line roughness R_a , which is less than $0.40\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and comprises more than 3.0 g/m^2 of aluminum oxide.
2. (Original) A plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic surface has a surface roughness, expressed as arithmetical mean center-line roughness R_a , which is less than $0.3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.
3. (Original) A plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein the aluminum support comprises more than 4.0 g/m^2 of aluminum oxide at the hydrophilic surface.
4. (Original) A plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises (a) a hydrophobic polymer which is soluble in the developer and (b) a dissolution inhibitor.
5. (Original) A plate precursor according to claim 4 wherein the dissolution inhibitor is a water-repellent polymer.
6. (Currently Amended) A plate precursor according to claim 5 wherein the water-repellent polymer is $[-]$ (a) a polymer comprising siloxane and/or perfluoroalkyl units $[:]$ or $[-]$ (b) a block- or graft-copolymer of a poly(alkylene oxide) block and a block comprising siloxane and/or perfluoroalkyl units.
7. (Original) A plate precursor according to claim 4 wherein the dissolution inhibitor is an organic compound comprising an aromatic group and a hydrogen bonding site.

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8. (Original) A plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein the coating further comprises a dissolution accelerator.
9. (Previously Presented) The plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the aluminum support comprises more than 4.0 g/m^2 of aluminum oxide at the hydrophilic surface.
10. (Previously Presented) The plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises (a) a hydrophobic polymer which is soluble in the developer and (b) a dissolution inhibitor.
11. (Currently Amended) The plate precursor according to claim ~~2~~ 4 wherein the coating further comprises a dissolution accelerator.
12. (Previously Presented) The plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the coating comprises (a) a hydrophobic polymer which is soluble in the developer and (b) a dissolution inhibitor.
13. (Currently Amended) The plate precursor according to claim ~~4~~ 6 wherein the coating further comprises a dissolution accelerator.
14. (New) The plate precursor according to claim 7 wherein the coating further comprises a dissolution accelerator.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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